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USSR: Use of Forced Labor on Domestic Pipeline

[redacted] minimum security forced labor is being used in the construction of a domestic gas pipeline compressor station close to the export pipeline to Western Europe.

[redacted]

The export pipeline shares the right-of-way with this domestic line in the Cheremisinovo area and passes less than 1 kilometer from this compressor station. A compressor station in the early stages of construction for the export line is located within 30 kilometers of the trailers housing forced labor. [redacted]

In addition to the minimum security facility near Cheremisinovo, there are 93 maximum security forced labor camps within 50 kilometers of the export line. The heavily guarded prisoners at all of these are engaged in light industry, logging, or urban construction near their camps. [redacted]

Comment: The segregated fenced and unfenced housing at Cheremisinovo confirms emigre reporting that parolees and probationers sometimes are housed separately from free workers near construction sites of compressor stations while they build the stations. Construction of compressor stations is the most probable use of forced labor in pipeline construction, because the work is localized and is semiskilled or unskilled in nature. [redacted]

The 93 existing camps are close enough to the export line compressor station construction sites to transport prisoners to them. The USSR, however, apparently has not used prisoners at such camps for this kind of work. Forced laborers from the ranks of parolees or probationers would be more likely to be brought in and kept in minimum security facilities such as the one near Cheremisinovo. [redacted]

-CIA, NSA-